

Maine EMS Rules Change Highlights For Rules Effective May 1, 2013

The 2013 revision of the Maine Emergency Medical Services system Rules was adopted by the Maine EMS Board at its December 5, 2012, meeting, with an effective date of May 1, 2013.

This summary has been written to give the Maine EMS community a first hand look at the major changes that will become effective in May.

Chapter 2 - Definitions

The Definitions Chapter defines the terms that are used throughout the Maine EMS Rules.

Changes to Chapter 2 include:

- Revising *Advanced Emergency Medical Treatment* and *Basic Emergency Medical Treatment* consistent with the Maine EMS statute.
- Defining *Response Assignment Plan* used by services as part of a Maine-EMS-approved response based upon emergency medical dispatch determinant codes.

Chapter 3 - Ground Ambulance and Non-transporting Service Licenses

Chapter 3 contains the requirements for obtaining and maintaining a ground ambulance service or non-transporting service.

Changes to Chapter 3 include:

- EMS Non transporting service license level changed from “First Responder” to “Emergency Medical Responder” to reflect national standards.
- “EMT-Basic” service level changed to “EMT”
- “EMT-Intermediate” service level changed to “Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)”
- Removal of the Critical Care service license level
- “EMT-Paramedic” service license level changed to “Paramedic”
- Removal of “Secondary Response Area” from the response area section as the term and requirement is no longer necessary in light of statewide mutual aid agreements.

Chapter 3 cont'd,

- Removing reference to secondary response area for service public notice of new license.
- Language removed from the Definitions Chapter: “*An ambulance service is not required to approve of or enter into a written agreement with a non transporting service*” was moved to Chapter 3
- Requirements for services and personnel concerning Paramedic Inter-facility Transfer (PIFT) have been added. Services must receive approval from Maine EMS to provide PIFT transfers and must use Paramedics who have completed Maine EMS PIFT training.
- A provision that allows a service that has an approved response assignment plan to provide a lower level of licensed EMS person (than for which the service is licensed) on calls in accordance with Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) determinant codes.
- Revising the section regarding use of persons less than 18 years of age on Maine licensed EMS services. No one under 18 years of age may participate in medical response or observation on an EMS call unless the service has a plan of supervision approved by Maine EMS and in accordance with Maine Department of Labor standards.
- A requirement that each EMS service designate an Infection Control Officer (ICO) in accordance with the Ryan White Act.
- Language that use/non-use of lights and siren may be in accordance with a Maine EMS approved response assignment plan.
- A requirement that electronic patient care reports be submitted to the Maine Run Reporting System (MEMSRR) within one business day.

Chapter 3-A - Emergency Medical Dispatch Licensure

Chapter 3-A contains the licensing requirements for Maine licensed EMD centers.

§6 was added to allow processing of EMD calls by dispatchers who have completed the Maine EMS approved EMD course, but who have not yet been certified, or licensed by Maine EMS. The processing of EMD calls by the aforementioned dispatchers must be under the direct supervision of a licensed EMD dispatcher approved by the center director.

Chapter 4 - Air Ambulance Service Licenses

Chapter 4 has been amended to include changes that mirror many of the changes to Chapter 3:

- Change the names of license levels (e.g., “EMT-Basic” to “EMT”, etc.)
- Run reporting requirements (1 business day)
- The addition of an Infection Control Officer (ICO)

Chapter 5 - Personnel Licenses

Chapter 5 contains some of the most notable changes of which folks should be aware

Changes to Chapter 5 will:

- Change the “First Responder (FR)” individual license level name to “Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)” Maine EMS will have EMR patches available for purchase after May 1, 2013.
- Change the “Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)” individual license level name to “Emergency Medical Technician”. No patch change necessary.
- Remove the “Ambulance Attendant” individual license level from the Rules, effective December 1, 2014. Current Ambulance Attendants will need to upgrade to the EMT level by December 1, 2014, or their licenses will convert to EMR licenses.
- Change “EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I)” individual license level name to “Advanced EMT (AEMT)”. Maine EMS will have AEMT patches available for purchase after May 1, 2013.
- Remove the “Critical Care” individual license level from the Rules, effective June 1, 2016. Current Critical Care Technicians will need to upgrade to the Paramedic level by June 1, 2016, or their licenses will convert to AEMT licenses.
- Change “EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P)” individual license level name to “Paramedic”.

Note: Maine EMS will issue license cards bearing the “new” license level names when a person applies for a new license or when a licensee applies for a license renewal. Licensees carrying licenses with the “old” license level names may

simply wait until they renew their license, or for a \$5.00 fee, receive a new card with the updated license level name.

- Revise EMS provider scope of practice to reflect new license level names and scope of practice in accordance with Maine EMS Pre Hospital protocols.
- Add requirements for Paramedics performing Paramedic Interfacility Transfers (PIFTs). PIFT providers must have completed a Maine EMS approved PIFT program and be affiliated with a Maine EMS-approved PIFT service.
- Add language that licensees are responsible for completing Maine EMS patient care reports to MEMSRR within one business day.
- Change Continuing Education Hour categories and names:
 - Category 1 - *EMS Operations* convert to *Preparatory and Operations*
 - Category 2 – *BLS Topics* and Category 4 – *ALS Topics* convert to *Airway, Breathing and Cardiac, Patient Assessment, Medical, Trauma and Obstetrics or Pediatrics*, as applicable
 - Category 3 – *BLS Skills* convert to *BLS Psychomotor Skills*
 - Category 5 – *ALS Skills* convert to *ALS Psychomotor Skills*
 - Category 6 – *Electives* convert to *Further Continuing Education*

To avoid loss of CEH credit during the transition, the Rules provide that for the next three years – May 1, 2013 to May 1, 2016, a licensee may use credits from any of the Airway, Breathing and Cardiac, Patient Assessment, Medical, Trauma or Obstetrics and Pediatrics categories to fulfill the requirements for renewal. For example, an EMT is required to have 12 hours in (what was) Category 2 - BLS Topics. After May 1, 2013 and until May 1, 2016, he or she may use CEH from any of the new topic areas - Airway, Breathing and Cardiac, Patient Assessment, Medical, Trauma or Obstetrics and Pediatrics – to fulfill the licensing requirements.

As of May 1, 2016, licensees will need to have specific CEH in each of the aforementioned categories, but by then, everyone will have been accumulating CEH under the new CEH categories.

- Effective May 1, 2016, the specific category requirements begin, and an increase in the amount of CEH required at each license level takes effect. For example, CEHs required to renew at the EMT level will increase from 38 hour to 52 hours and must consist of:
 - 2 hours in Preparatory and Operations;
 - 8 hours in Airway, Breathing and Cardiac;
 - 4 hours in Patient Assessment;
 - 8 hours in Medical;
 - 6 hours in Trauma;
 - 8 hours in Obstetrics and Pediatrics;
 - 8 hours in BLS Psychomotor Skills; and,
 - 8 hours in Further Continuing Education
- Another significant change is that as of May 1, 2013, licensees will have the option of submitting a current National Registry of EMT (NREMT) card in lieu of Maine EMS CEH in order to renew their Maine EMS license. One important point though – for licensees using NREMT cards to renew, the license issued by Maine EMS will carry an expiration date based upon the NREMT card expiration (i.e., you won’t get a three year license if you use NREMT certification to renew your license).
- The testing requirements have been amended to require Maine EMS-approved practical and cognitive testing within 3 years prior to the license application date. Licensees whose licenses are not expired by more than two years may still renew without needing to test. Beyond the two year “expiration window” a person would need to demonstrate testing (and training) in order to license.

Chapter 5-A - Emergency Medical Dispatcher Licensure

The major change to Chapter 5 will allow Maine EMS to issue up to a 27 month EMD license in order to establish a 3 month separation between National Academy of Emergency Dispatch (NAED) certification and Maine EMS license expiration. Once the 3 month separation is established, licenses will then be issued for 24 months.

Chapter 6 - Advanced Life Support Drugs and Medications

Changes to §1.4 will require an EMS service to report missing controlled drugs or medications to Maine EMS. Maine EMS will develop a reporting tool for services to use.

Chapter 8 - Training Courses and Continuing Education Programs.

The changes to Chapter 8 are primarily housekeeping:

- License levels names have been changed per changes in chapters 3,4 & 5 (e.g., “EMT-B” to “EMT”)
- Language was added that training courses must be conducted in accordance with Maine EMS Training Center Standards.

Chapter 8-A, Training Centers

Chapter 8-A is a new chapter that describes the requirements to become and operate a Maine EMS Training Center.

Chapter 9, Instructor Coordinator Certification

Changes to Chapter 9 include:

- IC level names changed to IC-EMT, IC-AEMT and IC-Paramedic. IC license cards will reflect the change upon renewal.
- That Instructor Coordinator applicants (for a new license) must have completed a Maine EMS Instructor Coordinator class within three years prior to application

Chapter 11 - Standards and Procedures for Refusing to Issue or Renew a License and for Modifying, Suspending, or Revoking a License

Chapter 11 was modified in concert with Maine EMS’ Assistant Attorney General representative. It has been amended to include violations concerning EMS education that formerly appeared in Chapter 9.

Chapter 15, Maine EMS Regions and Regional Councils

§3 has been changed to mirror the Maine EMS statute in regards to the Board’s authority to delineate regions within the State

Chapter 17, Equipment Lists for Maine EMS Services and Regional Radio Frequencies

Changes to Chapter 17 include:

- Addition of nasal airways
- Addition of “commercially prepared tourniquet” at the non transporting service level (the requirement is already in place for ground ambulance services)
- Removal of “suggested equipment”
- Clarification of the stretcher requirement and that restraining straps “...must be used during patient transport unless they interfere with patient care, or a child protective seat is in place.”
- Size requirements for transglottic airway devices
- Changes to the IV catheter requirements for surgical airway/chest decompression sets (14ga. 3.25 inch)
- Allowing betadine or equivalent surgical antiseptic for surgical airway/chest decompression set.
- That all services licensed or permitted at an advanced life support level have continuous waveform capnography (CWC). CWC has been required by Maine EMS protocol since December 2011 in order to provide advanced airway placement. Services that do not have CWC will either need to obtain the device or convert their service license and/or permit level to the EMT level.

Although this document provides an overview of the Rules changes, there will, no doubt, be many questions as these changes take effect on May 1, 2013. Please carefully review the Rules and speak with your Service Director or to a Maine EMS representative should you have questions about the implementation and use of the new Rules.